



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 01/07/2009

Arlington Recycling Committee - Minutes for Meeting of 1/7/09

Present: Gordon Jamieson (Chair), Juli Brazile, Ruth Yanetti (DPW), Paul Addorisio (DPW), Nigel Kraus, Kathy Carusone, Elizabeth Heichler, Beverly Brinkerhoff

Solid Waste Tonnage

Running 12 month total of solid waste sent to the incinerator in North Andover dropped below 16,000 tons/year - Thanks to all for your hard work in helping to make this happen - This means that approx. 1/3 of our total municipal waste stream is diverted and/or recycled.

WM contract update

Ruth reported that the contract ready for the mgr's signature. It will likely include single stream recycling. It is hoped that it will cover the cardboard bin collection costs and should as in years past have a PAYT option.

Recycling vinyl phonograph records.
 Paul will investigate.

Collection Network / Expansion

- Cardboard - The ARC would like to see a bin at St Camillus for the heights, one in the east and at least two in the Town yard. The Town has to pay for WM to empty these bins but the cost should be offset by tonnage diverted from incineration. Ruth expressed concern that bins near the town borders would attract cardboard from neighboring towns. The St Camillus experiment, paid for by the committee but not yet in place, may resolve this issue. There is now a 3d bin in the Town Yard. Paul is monitoring it to assure pickup.

- Abitibi paper bins - Paul provided handout listing locations of the 9 current bins. He has posted this list (under plastic) on all the bins so people will know where to go if bin filled. Stratton would like one but Hardy does not want one (fire hazard!). Important to the committee was learning that a bin currently exists at the Leslie Ellis School (Gibbs)

- Bin location mapping and promotional op-ed piece - The article will be delayed until the locations are settled. It would be good to have a bin map on the Town's web site. Kathy suggested adapting Google Maps.

- Paul also provided a list of the 5 Planet Aid boxes. Gordon suggested another at Lahey/Arlington off Broadway together with a Got Books bin w/ proceeds from the later going to the Arl Food pantry. Juli to ask Patsy Kramer to help approach Lahey regarding same.

- DPW yard overflow Gordon suggested a sign on these bins directing users to St Camillus when full.

- Returnable bottle collection(s) Gordon suggested a regular drop-off at AHS staffed by SAVE and the PTOs on a rotating basis. Proceeds could be split between SAVE & PTOs. Ruth suggested that this might be best run as part of the regular (every two months) CRT/TV collection at the DPW yard - Nigel to discuss with SAVE students - Potential for first 'additional' collection to happen in March - Hardy and Brackett (round one); Dallin and Peirce (round two) suggested as potential co-participants since they currently do not have any paper or book bins and might appreciate the additional income stream - Peirce particularly attractive as they have existing collection and would provide additional expertise - Anticipation long term for two schools at geographically disparate locations to participate in each collection thus providing each school (elem's and ottoson) a shot at it at least once/year - SAVE Club to benefit as well.

- Pierce book collection opportunity Carol Greeley has been contacted The ball is in her court.

- School cardboard/books Gordon suggested that when a school truck delivers books to a school, it pick up empty boxes & deliver them to the bins in the yard. Nigel to investigate current logistics regarding deliveries - Gordon also suggested that the schools have a standing policy that when old books are ready to discard and call Got Books to arrange pick-up and/or they take them to a book bin located at Stratton (Peirce) to insure \$\$ accrue to local pto's.

- Vols needed to work with SC (Jeff Thielman) on these issues - Juli to contact Jeff to learn status/options

PAYT Warrant Article Discussion : Gordon proposed an article similar to the one several years ago. At \$1/bag this would create a sizable revenue stream & reduce the tip fee cost. WM might charge more for additional recycling collection costs. Though residents would have to pay directly for trash collection, they would be able to minimize this expense (not possible with a tax) by recycling more. Further, this cost unlike taxes would not increase by the standard 2.5% per year - After some discussion, most ARC members signed the article request to be submitted as a ten registered voter article for the annual town meeting.

Ruth reminded us that the Eco Fair is planned for 3/28 in the Town Hall. SAVE and Arl Recycling Cmte hope to participate.

Also there will be a TV collection at the Town Yard on 3/21 (potential for bottle/can collection to be reviewed at Feb mtg).

Next Mtg Feb 5, probably in the Annex.

Not discussed but on the table:

- Sustainability action plan
- Development of solid waste component
- Composting/disposal use
- Website development (agendas, minutes, membership, additional information)
- State house/bottle bill
- No waste lunch